

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sorbent particle, comprising:  
a substrate having an ion exchange capacity of at least about 50 mEq/100g and a plurality of ion exchange sites; and  
a plurality of disordered polyvalent metal oxides located at the plurality of ion exchange sites, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide comprises at least about 5 wt.% water of hydration.
2. (Original) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of metal oxides is a plurality of metal hydroxides.
3. (Original) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, wherein the substrate is a silicate.
4. (Original) The sorbent particle of Claim 3, wherein the substrate is a phyllosilicate.
5. (Original) The sorbent particle of Claim 3, wherein the substrate is a zeolite.
6. (Currently Amended) The sorbent particle of Claim 3, wherein the substrate is ~~at least one of vermiculite, benonite, and montmorillonite.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The sorbent particle of Claim 3, wherein the ion exchange capacity ranges from about 50 to about 150 mEq/100g and wherein the metal oxide is a metal hydroxide.

8. (Currently Amended) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide is poorly crystallized and wherein a plurality of sorbent particles are adhered to a common carrier substrate.

9. (Currently Amended) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, wherein the polyvalent metal oxides comprises ~~at least about 5 wt.% water of hydration~~ a plurality of different types of polyvalent metals selected from the group consisting essentially of zirconium, aluminum, lanthanum, titanium, manganese, tin, iron, zinc, tungsten, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, wherein the ~~substrate is adhered to a carrier substrate different from the substrate~~ metal oxide comprises FeO(OH).

11. (Original) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, wherein the polyvalent metal is selected from the group consisting essentially of zirconium, aluminum, lanthanum, titanium, manganese, tin, iron, zinc, tungsten, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Original) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, wherein the polyvalent metal is a transition metal.

13. (Original) The sorbent particle of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ionic contaminants sorbed onto the sorbent particle.

14. (Currently Amended) In a [[A]] process for treating a fluid comprising at least one ionic contaminant, comprising[[:]] providing a sorbent, ~~the sorbent comprising a disordered polyvalent metal oxide located on only a portion of the surface area of a substrate~~ and contacting the fluid with the sorbent to remove at least most of the at least  
5 one ionic contaminant from the fluid to form a treated fluid and an ionic contaminant-bearing sorbent, the sorbent comprising:

a disordered polyvalent metal oxide located on only a portion of the surface area of a vermiculite substrate.

15. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein the fluid is an aqueous liquid.

16. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 14, wherein ~~the sorbent comprises a substrate that is at least one of vermiculite, montmorillonite, and zeolite~~  
a plurality of sorbent particles are located at differing locations on the substrate.

17. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein the at least one ionic contaminant is at least one of arsenic, selenium, copper, lead, cadmium, uranium, zinc, plutonium, phosphorus, molybdenum, mercury, and hydroxides and oxides thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 14, wherein the polyvalent metal is selected from the group consisting essentially of zirconium, aluminum, lanthanum, titanium, manganese, tin, iron, zinc, tungsten, and mixtures thereof and wherein the metal oxide is in the form of a hydroxide.

19. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein the polyvalent metal is a transition metal.

20. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide is poorly crystallized.

21. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide comprises at least about 5 wt.% water of hydration.

22. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 14, wherein the substrate has an ion exchange capacity ranging from about 50 to about 150 mEq/g and wherein the metal oxide comprises a plurality of different types of transition metals.

23. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein the fluid has a pH ranging from about pH 5 to about pH 9.

24. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 14, wherein the substrate is a layered silicate and wherein the metal oxide comprises FeO(OH).

25. (Original) The fluid stream treated by the process of Claim 14.

26. (Original) The ionic contaminant-bearing sorbent of Claim 14.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a sorbent, comprising:
- (a) contacting a solution comprising dissolved polyvalent metal ions with a substrate having a plurality of ion exchange sites to form an ion exchanged substrate having polyvalent metal ions exchanged at the plurality of ion exchange sites, wherein the solution has an acidic pH; and
- 5 (b) contacting the ion exchanged substrate with an oxygen-containing fluid to convert at least most of the polyvalent metal ions exchanged at the plurality of ion exchange sites into metal oxides.
28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the polyvalent metal ions in step (a) are in the form of a salt in the solution, wherein step (b) follows step (a), and wherein, in step (b), the ion exchanged substrate is contacted with a source of hydroxyl ions to convert the ion-exchanged polyvalent metal ions into hydroxyl ions.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the substrate is at ~~least one of vermiculite, montmorillonite, and zeolite.~~
30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the polyvalent metal is selected from the group consisting essentially of zirconium, aluminum, lanthanum, titanium, manganese, tin, iron, zinc, tungsten, and mixtures thereof, wherein the solution in step (a) has a pH of less than about pH 2, wherein the fluid in step (b) is a liquid, and wherein the liquid has a basic pH.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the polyvalent metal is a transition metal, wherein the polyvalent metal is electropositive, wherein the solution in step (a) has a pH of less than about pH 2, wherein the fluid in step (b) is a liquid, and wherein the liquid has a pH ranging from about pH 7 to about pH 8.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide is ~~microcrystalline or poorly crystallized~~ and wherein the metal oxide is in the form of a hydroxide.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide comprises at least about 5% water of hydration.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the substrate has an ion exchange capacity ranging from about 50 to about 150 mEq/100g and wherein the polyvalent metal ions comprise a plurality of different types of transition metals.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide is discontinuously distributed over the substrate and wherein a plurality of sorbent particles are located at differing locations on a carrier substrate.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein a concentration of the dissolved polyvalent metal in the solution is at least about 1 Molar.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the polyvalent metal has a first valence state after the contacting step (b) and further comprising:  
thereafter oxidizing the polyvalent metal to a second valence state, the first valence state being less than the second valence state and wherein the metal oxide comprises FeO(OH).

38. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the polyvalent metal is manganese.

39. (Currently Amended) In a [[A]] system for purifying an aqueous stream, the system comprising[[:]] a vessel comprising a bed of sorbent, ~~each of a plurality of sorbent particles in the sorbent bed comprising a substrate having an ion exchange capacity of at least about 50 mEq/100g and a plurality of ion exchange sites and a plurality of disordered polyvalent metal oxides located at the plurality of ion exchange sites~~; an input into the vessel for the aqueous stream; and an output from the vessel for a treated aqueous stream, each of the sorbent particles in the sorbent bed comprising:  
a substrate having an ion exchange capacity of at least about 50 mEq/100g; and  
a plurality of ion exchange sites and a plurality of disordered polyvalent metal  
oxides located at the plurality of ion exchange sites, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide  
comprises at least about 5 wt.% water of hydration.

40. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein the plurality of metal oxides is a plurality of metal hydroxides.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 39, wherein the ~~substrate is a silicate~~polyvalent metal oxide comprises a plurality of differing types of polyvalent metal ions selected from the group consisting essentially of zirconium, aluminum, lanthanum, titanium, manganese, tin, iron, zinc, tungsten, and mixtures thereof.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[41]]~~39, wherein a plurality of the sorbent particles are located on a carrier ~~substrates is a phyllosilicate.~~

43. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[41]]~~39, wherein the ~~substrate is a zeolite~~polyvalent metal ions are electropositive.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[41]]~~39, wherein the substrate is ~~at least one of vermiculite, benonite, and montmorillonite.~~

45. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[41]]~~39, wherein the ion exchange capacity ranges from about 50 to about 150 mEq/100g.

46. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein the polyvalent metal oxide is poorly crystalized.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[39]]~~41, wherein ~~the polyvalent metal oxide comprises at least about 5 wt.% water of hydration~~one type of metal ion is electronegative and another type of metal ion is electropositive.

48. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein the substrate is adhered to a carrier substrate different from the substrate.

49. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein the polyvalent metal is selected from the group consisting essentially of zirconium, aluminum, lanthanum, titanium, manganese, tin, iron, zinc, tungsten, and mixtures thereof.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 39, wherein the polyvalent metal ~~is a transition metal~~oxide comprises FeO(OH).